

**Amendments to the Specification.**

Please replace the indicated paragraphs from the specification with the following rewritten paragraphs. Deleted material is indicated by strike-through and new material is indicated by underlining.

Paragraph at page 2, lines 27-35:

B<sup>1</sup>  
In one embodiment, the method of separating the encysted protozoa is accomplished by a salt flotation process and the salt is sodium sulfate ~~sulphate~~. In this embodiment, the method includes preparing an admixture comprising the encysted protozoa and the sodium sulfate ~~sulphate~~, centrifuging the slurry and recovering a supernatant therefrom, forming a dilution of the supernatant and centrifuging the dilution, and recovering the concentrate from the centrifuged dilution. This embodiment may also include homogenizing the admixture by high intensity homogenization. The sodium sulfate ~~sulphate~~ is present in the admixture in an amount from about 3 to about 30 weight percent. Further, the specific gravity of the dilution may be less than the specific gravity of the encysted protozoa. The concentrate comprises from about  $1 \times 10^4$  to about  $1.5 \times 10^6$  encysted protozoa/ml.

Paragraph at page 3, lines 22-30:

B<sup>2</sup>  
In a further embodiment, the present invention covers a method for the purification, recovery, and sporulation of oocysts including separating the oocysts from a first suspension comprising the oocysts, and sporulating the separated oocysts by the methods of the present invention. Suitable oocysts are *Eimeria maxima*, *Eimeria mitis*, *Eimeria tenella*, *Eimeria acervulina*, *Eimeria brunetti*, *Eimeria necatrix*, *Eimeria praecox*, and mixtures thereof. In one embodiment, separation of the oocysts is accomplished by a sodium sulfate flotation process which includes preparing an admixture comprising the oocysts and the sodium sulfate ~~sulphate~~, centrifuging the slurry and recovering a supernatant therefrom, forming a dilution of the supernatant and

centrifuging the dilution, and recovering the concentrate from the centrifuged dilution.

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Paragraph at page 5, lines 14-25:

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B<sup>3</sup> When a salt flotation process is used, an admixture of the unpurified encysted protozoa and the salt is prepared. Suitable salt solutions include dense solutions of water soluble salts including chlorides, sulfates, phosphates, nitrates, and acetates of ammonium, sodium, potassium, calcium, magnesium, and zinc. Suitable highly hydrogen-bonded organics including urea and the salts of guanidine. Preferably, the salts include sodium sulfate, ~~sodium chloride~~, magnesium sulfate, magnesium chloride, calcium chloride, and mixtures thereof. More preferably, the salt is sodium sulfate. These salts provide the benefit of being significantly less corrosive to the process equipment. The salt is added in an amount sufficient to produce a difference between the specific gravities of the encysted protozoa and the admixture. Preferably, the specific gravity of the encysted protozoa will be less than the specific gravity of the admixture. The salt is present in an amount from about 3 to about 30 weight percent, preferably about 14 to about 20 weight percent, more preferably about 20 weight percent.

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